



JOINING FORCES: Left to right — Eleanor Dove, a doctor, Caroline Dollery, Tricia McAllister, Nigel

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By Chris Runeckles

and will be reinterviewed for the available positions. The new practice is due to open on November 1.

Dr Hunt said: "In my interview with members of staff and representatives of the patient group, I did say that, at some stage, there may be a joining together of local practices.

"I didn't envisage the time-scale we are talking about now. I certainly wasn't a PCT plant. The whole exercise is doctor-driven rather than PCT-driven."

He said that factors behind the move included the practice's cash flow and available medical equipment, although his main concern was service to patients.

The merged practice will be housed temporarily at Lee House while a site for a new surgery is found.

Hoppit patient Linda Stevens said: "In a single-handed service, there is good continuity of care because you see the same doctor throughout. I think people will be very upset and very angry."

■ Letters P16

Travellers stage demonstration

TRAVELLERS turned up in force to demonstrate outside Chelmsford Civic Centre during a planning inquiry over the controversial eviction site at Little Waltham.

The site was the scene of a confrontational eviction in January 2004. Families who had bought plots at Cranham Road, but had no planning permission, were ejected by bailiffs, police and council officials.

At Thursday's hearing, plot owner Margaret McCann appealed against refusal of planning permission for a touring van to be stationed at the site.

Demonstrating travellers demanded no more high profile evictions.

The inquiry result will be made known later.

Anglia's new name

ANGLIA Polytechnic University, which has one of its main campuses in Chelmsford, is to be known as Anglia Ruskin University.

The term "polytechnic" is to be axed in favour of honouring Victorian author, art critic and educationalist John Ruskin.

About 200 names were originally suggested by staff, students and regional organisations, but only two were put forward to the Privy Council for approval.

Of the two, Anglia University was the university's favoured option, but comparisons had been drawn by some with the University of East Anglia.

The new name alludes to the man associated with the foundation in 1858 of Cambridge School of Art, which is now part of the university's other main campus.

Vice-chancellor Professor David Tidmarsh said: "The term 'polytechnic' was confusing. Not only is it outdated in the UK, but it also means different things to different people."

"We want to remove this confusion and make sure that our name reflects the high quality of the education and services we provide."